

**III. REMARKS**

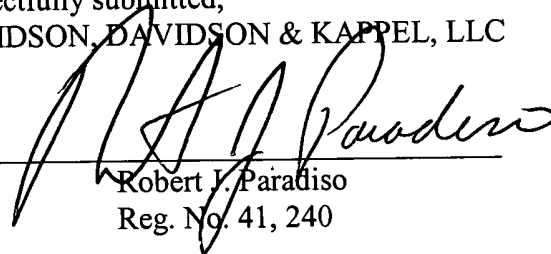
Claims 1 - 24 are pending. Claims 15 - 24 have been amended to reduce the filing fee.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephonic interview will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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By: \_\_\_\_\_



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